

Remarks

Claims 1-3 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 have been amended. No new matter is believed added. Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), Applicant respectfully believes that the drawings show all features specified in the claims. Regarding the "input" of the "driver" circuit (4), such an "input" is not present in the claims. Regarding the "core region" and the "periphery region," these features are clearly illustrated in FIG. 1 as regions 2 and 3, respectively. Regarding the "Vssc contact," this contact is shown as reference numeral 7 in FIG. 1. Regarding the "Vssq contact," FIG. 1 has been amended to correct the location of the lead line of the "Vssq contact" 6. Regarding the "output driver is not slew-rate controlled" and the "output driver is slew-rate controlled," the "output driver" 4 in FIG. 1 generically represents both types of output drivers.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding the

phrase "without substrate contacts," as known to one of ordinary skill in the art, this refers to the lack of contacts to the substrate of the integrated circuit. Regarding the "core region" and the "periphery region," these features are clearly illustrated in FIG. 1 as regions 2 and 3, respectively. Regarding the broken line circles (14) and (15), these circles generically represent the phenomena of "ground bounce" and "resonance" within the circuit 1. It should be noted that "ground bounce" and "resonance" are not present in the claims. Regarding the distinction between the "Vssc contact" and the "Vssq contact," these contacts are clearly distinguished in FIG. 1 and in the specification (see, e.g., page 2, line 21 to page 3, line 18). Regarding the "exact location" of the "Vssc contact" and the "Vssq contact," these contacts can be located anywhere along the nodes shown in FIG. 1. Regarding the term "resistance," such a resistance is a material characteristic that may be provided in many ways, e.g., in the Vssq pad (see Abstract).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by Martin et al. (US 6,507,225), hereafter "Martin." Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Bridgewater, Jr. (US 6,307,401), hereafter "Bridgewater." Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Asprey et al. (US

5,193,200), hereafter "Asprey." These rejections are defective because Martin, Bridgewater and Asprey fail to disclose each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102.

Regarding claim 1, all of the cited references fail to disclose a "core region with a Vssc contact and a periphery region provided with at least one Vssq contact, characterized in that a resistance with a value lying between 100 and 300 ohms is provided between each Vssq contact and the Vssc contact." Nothing found in any of the cited references recites or suggests an IC with a core region with a Vssc contact and a periphery region with a Vssq contact where a resistance between 100 and 300 ohms is provided between each Vssq contact and Vssc contact. Thus, claim 1 is believed patentable over the cited references for at least these reasons.

Claims 2-3 depend from independent Claim 1 discussed above and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is

necessary to place the application in condition for allowance,
the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned
representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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